



news and information
for employees of the
City of Saint Paul

City Update

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October 6, 2000

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Jerry Blakey

Christopher Coleman

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City Update

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"It's alright to bid against her!"



Sotheby's Auctioneer Hugh Hildesly brought extra flair and excitement to PEANUTS on Parade's auction.

Indeed. Only 20 minutes later, Johnson had made the highest bid and the right to take home "Summer of Love," a Snoopy whose name aptly described the entire PEANUTS on Parade experience.

Hugh Hildesly, one of the top auctioneers for world-renowned Sotheby's, kept the auction moving, using only three to five minutes to auction off each of the Snoopy statues. His ability to keep the proceedings light, but focused and intense, no doubt was a factor in getting bids that were higher than expected.

City officials and auction experts had predicted the statues fabricated by TivoliToo and decorated by local artists would earn no more than an average of \$10,000 each. But that price was more than doubled, earning the phenomenal total of \$823,000 toward scholarships at Schulz' alma mater, an endowed Chair of Illustration at the College of Visual Art, and a perma-

The auctioneer chided Barb Hansen of Eagan to outbid Amy Johnson, and Barb did what he asked her to. Her bid of \$31,000 at the Sunday, October 1st, PEANUTS on Parade auction made her the owner of Bid Item No. 1, "A Symphony of Snoopy."

When Hansen was bidding against Johnson, she didn't know that Johnson was one of Charles Schulz' daughters. Yes, it was alright to bid against her.



Paddle Number 302 was raised for the winning bid on the first item up for auction, "A Symphony of Snoopy," designed by Amy Bukstein for Avex Realty Services, Inc.

nent sculpture of the PEANUTS gang at a location yet to be determined.

Mayor Coleman started off the event, exhorting the 300 people in the bidder's circle to "Bid high, and bid often!" They likely had the funds to do that, since they had already paid \$200 each just to have the privilege of bidding. And they didn't even get to keep their cute Sotheby's auction paddles!

Thousands of spectators watched from the higher

See AUCTION on page 2

**Bid
high,
and
bid
often!**

— N. Coleman

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Places to go. Things to do.

ilovesaintpaul.com

levels of the Mall of America's east rotunda, where the auction was held. The auction took place there as part of the mall's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the PEANUTS comic strip's debut.



Mayor Coleman and Saint Paul Foundation President Paul Verret got things off on the right foot by thanking the many people who made PEANUTS On Parade so successful.

The event started at 3:00 p.m. with congratulations and thanks from the general manager of Camp Snoopy, Craig Freeman, as well as Mayor Coleman and Saint Paul Foundation President Paul Verret. The foundation will administer the proceeds from the October first auction and the internet auction, scheduled to begin the day after Thanksgiving and run for two weeks.

The afternoon was graced with music from national recording artist saxophonist Dave Koz. (See photo at lower right.) Accompanying Koz on piano was a national artist with local roots, Ricky Peterson. Later, Twin Cities jazz vocalist Jerilyn Steele was accompanied on "Happiness Is" by pianist Stephanie Johnson, a teenage granddaughter of Charles Schulz.

The whole event was a rousing success, as has been the entire PEANUTS On Parade venture to date. That doesn't mean it hasn't been fraught headaches, tense moments, and twists and turns. But with the help, volunteer or otherwise, of individuals, organizations, and companies, the project has brought joy to thousands. At the same time it paid tribute to one of Saint Paul's favorite sons.

While it's impossible to recognize everyone who's helped, we can at least name City employees and departments that spent significant time and energy on the project.

The Mayor's Office was heavily involved, as you might expect. So were Public Works, Parks and Recreation, PED, and the Police. Megan Ryan led the City's efforts from her post as Director of Marketing and Promotions. Megan wanted to especially thank her tireless staff of Leah Otto, Sarah Klecatsky, and Michelle VanHeel, as well as web designers Roger Grupp and Pete Nelson, and Jeff Nelson, Trent Mayberry, and Roy Power, who were 'imported' to work with her on this project, and finally, the staff of the Citizen Service Office, which answered thousands of questions throughout the summer.

Even though the bulk of the work is now complete, it doesn't mean PEANUTS On Parade is all over—not by any means. Visitors will want to know where the remaining Snoopys are. A book of the 101-plus Snoopys will be created. And hundreds of thank yous must be tendered.

The internet auction that begins Nov. 24th will feature "Snoopy Night," "Love Me Tender," "Scottish Guard Dog," "Hound Dog Harley," "Clowning Around," "Groovy Snoopy," and about a dozen more. Start saving your pennies now.



Dave Koz soloing at the October 1st auction

Be a HOSTS reading mentor

Five Saint Paul public schools are seeking mentors to read with students one-on-one once a week for HOSTS (Helping One Student To Succeed). The Saint Paul Public School District has adopted the nationally recognized HOSTS Academic Structured Mentoring Program in five schools. Community mentors are needed to read with students once a week for thirty minutes.

The objective of HOSTS is to accelerate student achievement for second- through sixth-grade students by matching them with trained business and community volunteer mentors. The mentors follow lesson plans created by language arts teachers. The plans are structured to match students' learning needs.

Saint Paul Public Schools Superintendent Patricia Harvey believes that reading with them is "one of the best things we can do for kids. HOSTS programs are one way that community members can help students reach their 25-book reading goal."

Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk and six staff members have been prominent supporters of the HOSTS program. She said, "Coming from teaching after so many years, this is an opportunity to listen to students and hear directly how they are doing. It's a great way to promote volunteerism in the schools. I feel every student should be connected to an adult to help them to achieve their goals."

HOSTS Language Arts provides a balanced program that includes reading, vocabulary, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students read every session at their instructional reading level and focus on skills that meet their needs. All students gain confidence and competency in

See HOSTS on p. 3

Open enrollment for benefits scheduled all month

Open enrollment for 2001 benefits will take place through October 31, 2000. The Risk Management Division is sponsoring open enrollment sessions at six different sites throughout the City. Representatives from HealthPartners, Ochs Inc., Stanton Group, and NBI/Ochs Services will be available to answer your benefits questions and assist you with completing necessary forms.

Please remember:

- To read your Employee Benefits Booklet before attending an enrollment session
- To bring your Booklet and Benefit Election Form to the enrollment session
- If you want to enroll or re-enroll in a flexible spending account for 2001, you must complete a flexible spending account enrollment form; enrollment is required each year
- Enrollment for benefits ends October 31, 2000. If you do not return your 2001 Benefit Election Form to an Ochs Inc. representative by October 31, it shall be deemed you have elected to continue your current insurance coverages by default.

HOSTS continued from page 3

reading and writing with the personal support of their mentor, and the mentors become role models for the students, and encourage them through individual attention.

To become a HOSTS mentor, call to schedule a half-hour mentoring session at one of the following:

Saint Paul Open School,
651-293-8670

Cherokee Heights Middle School
651-293-8610

Hancock/Hamline Collaborative
651-293-6585

Museum Magnet School
651-293-5926

Benjamin E. Mays Elementary
651-293-8730

The open enrollment sessions will take place:

Monday, October 16

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Employees attending open enrollment sessions in the Conference Center are to attend alphabetically by last name as follows:
City Hall Conference Center Room 40A and 40B	A - I 9:00 - 11:00 J - R 11:00 - 1:00 S - Z 1:00 - 3:00

Tuesday, October 17

7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Hamline Yard	Public Safety Annex
2nd Floor Training Room	Garage
289 Hamline Avenue No.	100 East Tenth Street

Wednesday, October 18

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Employees attending open enrollment sessions at the Dale Street Garage are to attend as follows:
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	11:00-12:30 - Street Maintenance
Dale Street Garage	12:30-2:00 - Sewer Maint/Municipal Equipment
2nd Floor Training Room	3:00-4:30 - Traffic Operations
891 North Dale Street	

Thursday, October 19

7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Como Shop	Water Treatment Plant
Carpenters' Garage	Filter Floor
1100 Hamline Avenue No.	1900 Rice Street

Wednesday, October 25

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Employees attending open enrollment sessions in the Conference Center are to attend alphabetically by last name as follows:
City Hall Conference Center Room 40A and 40B	J - R 9:00 - 11:00 S - Z 11:00 - 1:00 A - I 1:00 - 3:00

Monday - October 30

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Employees attending open enrollment sessions in the Conference Center are to attend alphabetically by last name as follows:
City Hall Conference Center Room 40A and 40B	S - Z 9:00 - 11:00 A - I 11:00 - 1:00 J - R 1:00 - 3:00

Office of Cable Communications wins three NATOA awards

The Office of Cable Communications (OCC) recently won several awards at the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Annual Conference and Programming Awards, which were held in Los Angeles, California.

NATOA recognizes excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia, and electronic programming developed by municipal organizations.

There were 934 entries from around the county which vied for honors in 68 categories of programming, including community events, documentary, public affairs, and interview/talk show.

The OCC took first place in Public Affairs for budgets over \$250,000 for "Norm Coleman Reports" and first place in Documentary/Event Coverage for budgets between \$200,000 and \$500,000

for "Connecting Saint Paul: The Story of the Wabasha Street Bridge."

The OCC also took second place for budgets between \$200,000 and \$500,000 for "Council Matters" in one of the most competitive categories, Interview/Talk Show.

Special congratulations to

Producer Mike Kaplan, and Executive Producer Terry Devine, in addition to all of the OCC staff who worked on these programs.

"Norm Coleman Reports"

"Council Matters"

"Connecting Saint Paul: The Story of the Wabasha Street Bridge"

Important Health Benefit Changes for 2001

HealthPartners will continue as the City's health insurance provider for 2001. Premiums will be \$229.84 for single coverage and \$588.40 for family coverage (a low 8.81% increase). In order to get the low premium increase, several co-pays were added or increased in the HealthPartners plan.

Prescription drug co-pays will increase beginning January 1, 2001, and there will be increased out-of-pocket expenses for health provider visits. For more detailed information on health benefit changes, please review pages 1-16 of your Employee Benefits Booklet. All members will receive new ID cards by January 1 which will reflect the change in co-pays.

HealthPartners representatives will be at all open enrollment sessions to answer your questions about their plan and the benefit changes. New directories will be available at all open enrollment sessions, from the Risk Management Division (240 City Hall), or by sending in the postcard at the back of your Employee Benefits booklet.

New Lower Rates for Long Term Disability Insurance

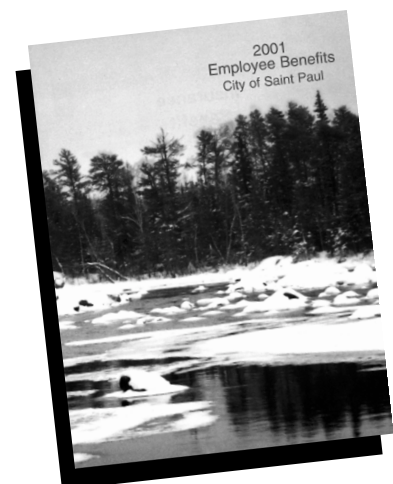
Long term disability insurance is a practical and cost-effective way to assure that you have continued income if you become disabled and can no longer work. During open enrollment, you have the opportunity to enroll for new amounts of long term disability coverage at a cost approximately 21% less than current rates! In addition, there will be no health questions asked if you are now enrolled in the plan. Employees not currently enrolled may enroll subject to approval of a health questionnaire.

New features to enhance the coverage have been added under the title "Managed Disability Solutions." While your disability plan will, as always, provide financial support during a period of disability, resources will also be devoted to help you get back to work and regain a more healthy, productive lifestyle. Doctors and nurses act to help improve health while your coverage provides both you and the City with valuable vocational rehabilitation initiatives.

Measure the gap between your potential income and your ability to pay bills in the event of a disability.

Then, using the Group Insurance Application, select the amount of coverage you want in a monthly benefit amount between \$500 and \$5,000 per month. You may choose up to 60% of your salary. Submit your forms to an Ochs Inc. representative by October 31. Coverage begins on January 1, 2001, with coverage for pre-existing conditions beginning on January 1, 2002, for any additional amounts.

See pages 40-42 of your Employee Benefits booklet for the new rates and additional information.



Saint Paul, Minnesota. Founded in 1849. Rediscovered in 2000

Flexible Spending Account offsets increased benefit costs

Times are changing. Starting January, 2001, there will be additional out-of-pocket expenses with your health insurance plan. To keep the premium increase low, several co-pays were added or increased in the HealthPartners plan (see your Employee Benefits booklet for details on plan changes).

The good news is that you can offset some of these increased costs by using a Flexible Spending Account (FSA). The Health Care Account allows you to use before-tax dollars to pay for certain out-of-pocket health care expenses. With the Health Care Account you pay no Federal, State, or Social Security tax on qualifying expenses. For example, a participant with an annual compensation of \$25,000 and \$3,500 in out-of-pocket health care expenses would save approximately \$1,050 per year using a Health Care Account:

	Without Health Care Acct	With Health Care Acct
Gross Pay	\$25,000	\$25,000
Less Account Contribution	\$0	(\$3,500)
Taxable Income	\$25,000	\$21,500
Less Taxes (Federal, State, FICA)	(\$7,500)	(\$6,450)
Less Out-of-Pocket Expenses	(\$3,500)	(\$3,500)
Plus Reimbursement	\$0	\$3,500
Spendable Pay	\$14,000	\$15,050

Covered Expenses

Qualifying expenses include deductibles, co-payments, and co-insurance from your medical plan; chiropractic services; prescription drugs; dental expenses; orthodontia; medical equipment; vision care, laser surgery, and prescription eye glasses or contact lenses; chemical dependency services; and hearing aids. See page 21 of your Employee Benefits Booklet for more information on qualifying expenses.

How to Enroll

Your commitment to participate in the Health Care Account is made during open enrollment. You will need to estimate the amount of out-of-pocket health care expenses (up to \$4,000) you and your family expect to incur during the plan year (January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2001). Then, complete a flexible spending account form and submit it to Ochs Inc. by October 31, 2000. Be sure to ask for—and keep—receipts for all your prescription and office visit co-pays and other medical expenses to submit for reimbursement.

Beginning in 2001, the City will now pay all administrative fees. No administrative fees will be deducted from your paycheck for participation in the FSA accounts.

Reimbursement

When you enroll, you'll receive a reimbursement request (claim) form and pre-addressed envelope which you should use to submit your first expenses to Stanton Group for reimbursement. Ask your provider to complete and sign the appropriate box, or attach appropriate documentation: a signed receipt, an insurance company explanation of benefits, or an itemized statement from the provider. Stanton will mail a check directly to you based on the reimbursement schedule. (See pp. 27–28 of your Employee Benefits Booklet for more information on reimbursement.)

Forfeitures

IRS regulations state that any funds remaining in your account after the payment of eligible expenses incurred during a plan year will be forfeited. You must submit any reimbursement requests for expenses incurred through your period of coverage for the prior year by February 15 following the end of the plan year.

Even if you do incur a forfeiture, you may still be money ahead—if you deposit \$1000 into your account, and you forfeit \$100, you're still about \$200 ahead because you've saved approximately \$300 in taxes.

Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance

Accidents are the leading cause of death for Americans under age 37, and the fifth leading cause of death overall, according to the National Safety Council ("Accident Facts," 1995 edition). Accidental death and dismemberment insurance offers an affordable, convenient way to add increased financial protection from the consequences of an accident.

During open enrollment this month, you can apply for any amount of coverage from \$5,000 to \$100,000, then add up to one-half the amount you elect to cover your spouse. This benefit pays in addition to any other life insurance benefits, and you automatically qualify for coverage without a health questionnaire. Simply complete the Group Insurance Application and your Benefit Election Form in your Employee Benefits booklet. See page 43 for more information, and submit your forms to an Ochs Inc. representative by Oct. 31. Your new coverage will be effective on Jan. 1, 2001.

Attention moms and dads!

Find out how you can save tax dollars with a Dependent Day Care Account. See p. 23 of your Employee Benefits booklet

What's Short-Term Disability Insurance?

Just as its name implies... it's an insurance program that pays you a monthly income while you recover from an off-the-job injury or illness. This month, you may apply for a monthly benefit of up to \$2,000, in \$100 units, not to exceed 66⅔% of your regular basic monthly pay. You begin to receive benefits the first day of an accident, or the eighth day of an illness or pregnancy related disability. Benefits can continue for up to six months. Rates and additional information are on pages 38 and 39 of your Employee Benefits Booklet. All enrollment forms must be submitted to Ochs Inc. by Oct. 31.

Combined Campaign runs to October 20th

You have until Friday, October 20th, to return your forms for the City's annual Combined Campaign.

This year the pledge cards you receive will not have your name and Social Security pre-printed on them. You have more work to do, but you gain privacy.

The campaign is contributing to eight organizations. Coordinators are handing out brochures telling all about each organization and their fundraising goals. For more information, you may visit their web sites:

- Open You Heart to the Hungry and Homeless, www.oyh.org
- Minnesota Environmental Fund, www.mnenvirofund.org
- United Negro College Fund, www.UNCF.org
- Community Solutions Fund, www.solutionsfund.org
- Community Health Charities – Minnesota, www.healthcharitiesmn.org
- United Arts, www.unitedartsmn.org
- United Way of Saint Paul, www.unitedwaysaintpaul.org
- Victim Intervention Project Inst., www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/depts/police/vipi.html

THE TWIN CITIES PEACE CONCERT

This October 21st enjoy a unique evening of music at the Twin cities Peace Concert with Sri Chimnoy. The Peace Concert is a special opportunity to join thousands of music lovers and peace seekers to create an atmosphere flooded with inspiration and peace.

Sri Chimnoy's music beckons the innermost part of the listener. Transcending the barriers of nationality, language, and culture, it brings to the fore the universal aspiration for harmony and oneness and fulfills that aspiration with a flood of peace.

During the Peace Concert, Sri Chimnoy

performs his original compositions on a variety of instruments, both familiar and exotic, from a deep contemplative consciousness.

The sweet notes of the flute, the ethereal tones of the esraj, and the thundering cascades of the piano are all imbued with the presence of peace. The listening process becomes a meditation touching the heart of the listener and creating an atmosphere rich in profound peace.

Experience the concert at the new Xcel Energy Center at 8:00 p.m. Admission is free, but tickets are required. For ticket information call 612-874-9911.

The Peace Concert is free because peace is

each individual's inner heritage. The strength of the Peace Concert comes from each person offering what they have... whether it be a desire for peace in the world or in one's life, or a meditation for peace in one's heart.

As such, there is no charge for the concert. There is no solicitation of any sort... it is unequivocally free.

The experience of peace is a lasting treasure, which the listeners can carry with them into their daily lives. Since the first Peace Concert in 1984, nearly a million people from all over the world and all walks of life have shared this inspirational experience.

"WHAT POWER IS IN THIS MAN'S MUSIC! IT'S INCREDIBLE."
— LEONARD BERNSTEIN

City job openings as of October 6th, 2000

Application deadline	Job title	Bi-weekly or hourly salary rate	Exam date
Open	Clerical assistant (part-time)	\$9.00 per hr	See Job Ann
Open	Clerk-Typist II (Hmong/English Speaking)	\$23,800.00 annual	See Job Ann
Open	Clerk-Typist II (full & part-time)	\$23,800.00 annual	See Job Ann
Open	Communications Technician	\$1365.82	See Job Ann
Open	Conservatory Attendant (permanent/part-time)	\$9.17 per hr	See Job Ann
Open	**Food Service Assistant (part-time)	\$9.01 per hr	See Job Ann
Open	Food Service Helper (part-time)	\$8.00 per hr	See Job Ann
Open	IS Information/Technical Analyst I	\$1201.32	See Job Ann
Open	IS Information/Technical Analyst II	\$1397.98	See Job Ann
Open	IS Information/Technical Analyst III	\$1550.12	See Job Ann
Open	IS Systems Support Specialist II	\$1148.08	See Job Ann
Open	IS Systems Support Specialist III	\$1397.98	See Job Ann
10/09/00	Project Manager II	\$1381.33	10/19/00
10/18/00	Pumping Engineer II (prom)	\$20.07 per hr	10/27/00
Open	Recreation Leader (permanent/part-time)	\$8.81 per hr	See Job Ann
10/09/00	School Food Service Coordinator (prom)	\$1152.98	10/26/00

** This is a walk-in-examination. Do not submit a job application before the test.

Note: Call or visit the Office of Human Resources to receive the official job announcement for these positions. Location: 400 City Hall Annex. Phone: 651-266-6500 (TTY/TDD 651-266-6501) or visit the web site: www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/jobopenings. For jobs announced after September 28th, please call our 24-hour job line, 651-266-6502.